

# Washington State Elections Weekly

September 24, 2014

## Technology Summit Update

The Tech Summit's purpose is to create a team and develop a plan to improve registration and elections technology in Washington. Since the Tech Summit kick-off meeting in April, we have been collecting data from Washington counties about their systems, and surveying other states that have modernized their voter registration systems.

It's been pretty quiet for a while but we have some exciting new updates about the Technology Summit and our schedule moving forward.

**Right Now:** There are still a handful of counties that have not yet responded to the [Tech Summit survey](#). The data in that survey will be a vital resource for Tech Summit discussions about cost, efficiency, and impact. Auditor's received an email if their County has not responded to the survey September 10<sup>th</sup> from [Stuart Holmes](#), Election Information Services Supervisor.

**On Deck:** We will be finalizing an RFP for a consultant to come in and perform a lean analysis of our business practices. The consultant will also help us identify our business requirements and our system requirements. Once that RFP is complete, it will be reviewed by members of the Technology Summit team, then submitted.

**Coming Soon:** We plan on reassembling the Tech Summit team in January, and continue working closely together through June of 2015. The Tech Summit kick-off meeting in April of this year laid out some basic needs, roadblocks, and solutions (see [Summary Report](#)) for Washington's elections system. Our work next year will be to work through these needs and challenges together as a team.

It's important to remember that we aren't working for a top-down, bottom-up, hybrid, or whatever-you-wanna-call-it system. The consensus at the Tech Summit meeting was we all want a Washington system. Not a system designed for poll-sites that we work-around for vote-by-mail. Secretary Wyman put it best at the kick-off meeting, "Knowing what you know today about registration and tabulation systems – factoring in all federal and state requirements, and public expectations for accessibility, integrity, and earlier, meaningful results – would you build the election system we currently have to meet our needs?"

## VRDB Bulk Audit

If you haven't already, you should run a [bulk audit](#) before the General to ensure that the records on the VRDB match the records on your EMS. Let [VRsupport](#) know the date you ran the audit so we can run reports on it for you.

## Ballot Status Tracker

Please let [WEIsupport](#) know if your county will **not** be using the WEI ballot status tracker for the General Election.

## Win/Win Network Robo-calls

Win/Win Network will be making robo-calls to about 5,700 inactive registered voters from around the state. Win/Win obtained this list by matching the latest VRDB records available with their partner organizations' membership lists. Their phone script asks voters to update their address before the deadline, and gives the voter the option of pressing 1 to get connected directly to you. Calls will occur this week and into next week.

## The General At-A-Glance

Check out this handy-dandy one-pager for the [2014 General Election](#).

## Survey | Write-ins

We're collecting information about write-ins as we gear up for this upcoming legislative session. We expect to get a lot of inquiries about this topic in the coming weeks. Please send [Lori Augino](#) the answers to the following questions:

- How many write-in candidates qualified for the General Election ballot in contests that had unopposed candidates?
- Of those qualified, how many were declared write-in candidates?

## Nonvisual Election Technology and Training Curriculum

The [National Federation of the Blind](#) (NFB) has released a '[Nonvisual Election Technology and Training Curriculum](#)' for state election officials, protection and advocacy organizations, and the general public. The training materials are available on CD or online – some information is also available in both print and Braille. You can find more information at <https://nfb.org/hava-intro> and <https://nfb.org/hava-legislation>.

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